

**MINUTES OF COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, 4/9/13, 4:15 P.M.**

Board Members Present: Robert Young, Lucas Yonkman, Jeff Campbell, Ed Johnson, Gene Barner
Not Present: Dave Thomason, Lauren Nelson
Dept. Staff Present: Chief Ed Green, Martha Folsom, Officer Yzaguirre
Also Present: Nora Daniel

The meeting was called to order by Johnson at 4:15 pm p.m. in the Police Department Training Room.

AGENDA TOPICS

1. **March Minutes:** No discussion. Johnson moved to approve the March minutes, Yonkman seconded. The March minutes were approved as presented.
2. **Pertinent Updates / CAB Questions:** Chief Green was not present at this time, moved on to Item 3.
3. **Graffiti:** Folsom introduced CSO (Community Service Officer) Jennifer Yzaguirre, who was present at the meeting for the discussion on graffiti. Campbell referred to the graffiti handout previously provided to members. His basic question was "what is our response" (the Police Department) and "how do we expect the public to report graffiti". Officer Yzaguirre said that it can be reported to either 9-1-1 (emergency) or ICOM's non-emergency line (679-9567). She said that we let the business owner/manager know about it, and encourage them to get it cleaned up. Some are better than others about it. She is working on increasing our volunteer program participants and one of the thoughts was to have them cover up graffiti, with the business owner providing the supplies. She has spoken with one business owner in the Safeway complex, who completely agreed with this plan. Another alternative, and what Mt. Vernon Police Department does, is to provide free graffiti remover, which has their agency label on it. We would have to address funding for that. Another alternative is painting murals on walls, or to work with the property owner in covering up the walls, such as with landscaping, so the walls are no longer visible, and to increase lighting in the area.

Officer Yzaguirre again mentioned that certain property owners are more willing to cover up graffiti as soon as they are aware of it; others do not seem to care. Police take a report and pictures when graffiti is reported, to document damages, as it is a Malicious Mischief charge. Finding who is responsible is very rare. Campbell asked if we have prosecuted anyone, and Officer Yzaguirre said she would guess no. Sometimes the School Resource Officer can identify possible suspects. Campbell said that he would love to see a "Graffiti Hotline", a number people can call to report it, and discussion was held on that. Officer Yzaguirre advised that she will be making a presentation at the Chamber of Commerce next week, and she will mention graffiti and encourage businesses to report it. Mr. Campbell gave a couple of instances where graffiti was not cleaned up right away, and one was on City-owned property. Officer Yzaguirre said that City staff is very good about getting it cleaned up right away, so she would guess that they weren't aware of it. That is why reporting it is so important. In closing and in response to Campbell's original questions, Officer Yzaguirre reiterated that citizens should report graffiti and that it is up to the business/property owners to get it cleaned up if it is on private property.

Campbell said that perhaps the CAB could do something as a committee, approach business/building owners and encourage graffiti being cleaned up. Or, was there something CAB could do to help the PD. Officer Yzaguirre said that we do have a volunteer program, and Campbell asked to be put on the list to volunteer. Johnson asked if there was anything in any City ordinance requiring business owners to clean up graffiti. Yzaguirre said that she would have to research that, but she doesn't remember anything specific. Campbell said that at the website "graffiti hurts" (from his handout) there are resources available for getting the word out in the schools, and asked if we have anyone who goes into the schools for this purpose. Yzaguirre said our SRO would probably be the best person, and Campbell said that he would like to see the information get into the hands of someone who goes in and talks at the schools. Yzaguirre will provide the information to her supervisor.

Discussion was then held on publicizing the CAB Board, and ways to do that, via the CAB phone line, National Night out, etc.. Young said that he has been here 30 years, and it seems to him in the last 6-12 months that there has been an increase in graffiti. Discussion was held on encouraging "self-pride" (in graffiti removal) and if/how the CAB could influence better participation. Yonkman asked if it was within the CAB's means to recommend to the Council that an ordinance include graffiti removal. Chief Green (who had arrived at the meeting) said yes, but caution would need to be taken regarding 1st Amendment Rights, and what is considered "artistic" vs. "offensive". Discussion was held on gangs, with Yzaguirre advising that, wherever you go, there are gangs, but in our favor is the Navy being here, and our distance from the I-5 corridor. She hasn't seen an increase (in gangs), or any known gang symbols (graffiti). Discussion returned to City ordinance issues (whether they cover, or could cover, graffiti removal). Chief Green said we might be able to get to the owners through a nuisance complaint. He said that one of the ways California combated graffiti was that the legislature started recognizing gangs as criminal organizations. Johnson said that, in San Diego, where there was also a big gang problem, approval (tacit) was given to tag ONE wall only, and that helped limit the graffiti to that location only.

Young said that what he was taking away from the discussion was (1) we (CAB) need to start communicating with business owners that graffiti is not just bothersome, but a crime, and they need to report it, whether cleaning it up or not; and (2) we need to support the Police Department in helping to communicate the message to the business community and the public. Clean it up and report it. Campbell asked Officer Yzaguirre if she would bring this issue up at her Chamber presentation and she said she would, as well as letting them know about the CAB.

4. **Pertinent Updates (from Item #2 above):** Chief Green apologized again for arriving late, he was in conference with Human Resources. He brought the CAB up to date on shelter (animal) operations for the City. We have been negotiating with WAIF, who provide shelter services. We are being evicted from the Navy shelter facility as of June 30th, as the building is being torn down. Animal Control and Shelter Services fall under the responsibility of the Police Department, and he and Folsom have been doing a lot of work on this. The main question has been – will we (City) have our own facility here in Oak Harbor, or transport animals to WAIF's Coupeville facility. Things are looking good on having a facility here in Oak Harbor.

In response to the previous graffiti discussion, Chief Green mentioned the CSO position (Officer Yzaguirre) and that it was one of the position he created when he got here, and that this (graffiti issues) is part of what she does and why he wanted to have her here (at the meeting). He recently sent her a link to an article about what they are doing with this problem in Bremerton, which is a hotbed for gang activity. They buy the supplies to combat/remove the graffiti, and every city employee is pretty much obligated to remove it if they see it, and if they can do it legally.

Johnson introduced visitor Nora Daniel. Ms. Daniel said she moved here 5 years ago, her husband is USN retired and they have moved around a lot. She is a member of Soroptimists and Navy League, and keeps pretty active. She has had a lot of jobs, and one which she enjoyed was as a Wildfire Dispatcher in Nevada, and she traveled all over the U.S. to wildfires. Johnson advised that he has known Nora for about 4 years, and she is interested in joining the CAB, and has submitted her Bio form. Folsom will make sure the form gets to the Mayor's office.

5. **CAB Survey Discussion:** Johnson said we asked members last month to go over the surveys, and to really start "fine tuning". He didn't know how much opportunity members had to do that. He said, due to time constraints (in the current meeting time), he would urge members to continue to do that. He said that perhaps in the next couple of months, CAB could have a rough draft survey for the Chief to look over. Yonkman said that he came up with some questions, and in the interest of time, perhaps they could be scanned and emailed out for all to review (for the next meeting). Folsom will do that. Discussion was held on putting something in the survey about graffiti, as well as ways to adapt the Charlestown survey to our needs.

The issue of officers "getting out of the car" was brought up, and Chief Green said that officers are doing this more, and that it works. People seem to like it and want it. Yonkman said that he was doing some work for the owner of a local restaurant, who said that he (the owner) has communicated with other business owners, and collectively, they would like to see more of an almost "personal relationship" with officers, where they stop in the businesses and talk. Chief Green said this is the type of thing he needs to hear. He said that he had an idea of holding informal meetings at the PD with business owners, perhaps monthly. The discussion turned

back to the survey, and some of the ideas were to have a “demographics” section at the beginning, i.e., if a business owner (or one of the other target groups), where located within the City, to perhaps put a map on there. Chief Green said that, once a draft survey was ready, it could be put up on Survey Monkey and then we would ask select people to take the survey, and get their feedback and revise the survey if needed.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. **CAB at Holland Happening**: Johnson mentioned past discussions of getting the community aware of the CAB and ways to do that. He felt that perhaps CAB members participating at Holland Happening would be a good way. Chief Green said he would love to see the CAB there. Young said perhaps members could wear their polo shirts and wander through the crowds. Chief Green mentioned Drug Take Back Day, which is the same day as the parade (April 27th) and that CAB members have participated in that in the past. He felt that the parade would be a better place to be. Johnson asked who is the Emcee for the parade, that perhaps an announcement could be made about the CAB members being there. Folsom will get that information to Johnson.
2. **Name Badges**: Chief Green said that we researched business cards and/or nametags for CAB members. We found that it is not currently done for other Boards, and that it is costly. Instead, he requested Folsom to come up with an “ID Nametag”, which she did. Those were handed out to CAB members present. Chief Green says that this “legitimizes” Board members, and has phone contact information on it.
3. **Agenda Item for Next Meeting**: Yonkman wanted to ask the CAB’s opinion on an agenda item he wished to add. He feels that our City needs some sort of Firearms Awareness Training, some education in general, such as holding a public event and having police officers and possibly military members there, whomever would be qualified to educate people on firearms. He felt this would be beneficial to the community, to educate them about firearms, and the 2nd Amendment. Chief Green said that, as a Department, we cannot take a stand on any political aspect of it, but we could have a firearms instructor there, and the Community Service Officer.
4. **Move to Training Room (for meetings)**: Chief Green explained the move to the new CAB meeting location, as the Patrol Room was recently moved back into the Conference Room where the CAB used to meet, which is where it (the Patrol Room) used to be. This room where we are meeting now is the conference/training room. The other room in the building is the CST (Community Service Team) offices, and volunteers will be in there as well. We still have some work to do in this room.
5. **Ride-Alongs**: Yonkman asked how to schedule a ride-along (with an officer). Folsom will provide the form to fill out. It then goes to the Patrol Sergeants for scheduling.

Johnson thanked Nora Daniel for coming to the meeting, and for her interest in the CAB.

Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Young seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 5:21 p.m. on 4/9/13.

The next CAB meeting will be held on Tuesday, 5/14/2013 in the OHPD Training Room.

Prepared by M. Folsom